



(Photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor 2-82 Abn. Public Affairs)

## Home on the range!

Lt. Col. Yahyaw Rasol Abdalh (r.), commander of the 3rd Bn., 2nd Bde., 6th IA Div., gives a demonstration on how to fire an AK-47 to Lt. Col. Al Shoffner, commander of the 2nd Bn., 319th Abn. FA Regt., 2nd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div., at the range on their shared combat outpost in the Adhamiyah security district in Baghdad March 25.

## Ironhorse troops assist kidnapped victims

By Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp  
1-1 Cav. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Three Iraqi men, battered and beaten after many days of being held hostage by terrorists near the town of Fallujah, entered the Company A, 115th Brigade Support Battalion's headquarters on Camp Taji, Iraq.

The men, who all smiled when greeted by the U.S. Soldiers, had been kept on the camp for medical treatment and were wait-

ing just a few short hours before being driven to Baghdad and from there to Fallujah to be reunited with their families.

This was the scene as Soldiers from the 1st Ironhorse Brigade Combat Team participated in a joint effort with Iraqi Police in Fallujah and Marines from the 6th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) to get the men back home March 25.

The liberated hostages had been rescued by coalition troops March 22 near the town of Karmah, Iraq, just hours before insurgents

could fulfill their plans to execute the men.

On the first leg of their journey, they were escorted by Soldiers from the 115th Brigade Support Battalion from Camp Taji, Iraq on a convoy to Baghdad where they were then linked up with other Ironhorse Brigade troopers from Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment on Camp Liberty, Iraq.

The Co. E troops then drove the men to

See **Ironhorse** Page 2

# Coalition forces, Iraqi police liberate hostages

## Ironhorse

From Page 1

a link up point near Fallujah, where Marines from the 6th RCT took them to the Fallujah Iraqi Police station.

From Fallujah, the IPs then reunited the men with their awaiting families.

Pfc. January Schectman, a combat medic for Medical Company C, 115th Brigade Support Battalion and a native of Whitefish, Mont., offered the men some crackers and other foods prior to their departure, but said it was hard to fathom what the men had been through over the past few days.

"They're a little traumatized so it's been hard for them to eat," she said as she gave food to two of the men, while the other man laying on his side smiled at her but turned down the food, due to pain from his injuries. "It's sad that the insurgents would do such things to them."

Schectman felt it was



(U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

### Soldiers from Co. E, 2nd Bn., 5th Cav. Regt. and Marines from the 6th RCT assist three liberated hostages March 25 near Fallujah, Iraq.

important to show the men compassion, something, she said, the insurgents who kidnapped the men were lacking.

For Richmond, Texas native, Capt. Jay Wisham, commander, Co. E, 2nd Bn., 5th Cav. Regt., the mission, he said, was an honor.

"I'm all about doing this, and our willingness to transport these hostages, who we freed from the insurgents, more than 100 kilometers back to their

homes shows that we're here to support the Iraqi people."

Wisham and his troops often perform missions near Baghdad. Over the course of their missions they have captured a lot of insurgents and routed out terrorist cells, all the while being involved in humanitarian efforts to help the people in the villages in which Co. E patrols. So Wisham said helping the freed men was some-

thing his Soldiers were more than glad to participate in.

"This has been a great opportunity to show the Iraqis that we care for them," said Sgt. Justin Harris, a combat engineer who is a team leader for Co. E and hails from Roseville, Calif. "You can see the Iraqis really want our help and seeing and experiencing their attitudes toward us, it's a good feeling and it's pretty awesome."

"We're not just here to shoot bad guys and get rid of insurgents, we're here to help the country and its people," he said.

"The Iraqi people are just like us, they just want to work, support their families and then come home without having to be worried about being abducted from their homes," said Harris. "Sometimes there are a few bad apples who are insurgents and the civilians are not equipped to take care of that, but we're more than happy to continue assisting (the Iraqi security forces) in getting rid of the bad guys."

## Arabic Phrase of the Day

*rugba*

**Defined:**  
neck

## Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 73  
Low: 54



Tomorrow

High: 77  
Low: 52



Thursday

High: 77  
Low: 57

**Commanding General:** Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.  
**Public Affairs Officer:** Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl  
**Command Information Supervisor:** Master Sgt. Dave Larsen  
**NCOIC, Print Production:** Sgt. Michael Garrett  
**Editor:** Spc. Shea Butler  
**Staff Writers:** Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. L.B. Edgar, Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma, Pfc. Ben Gable, Pfc. William Hatton  
**Contributing Writers:** Maj. Rob Parke, Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp, Spc. Nathan

Hoskins, Spc. Chris McCann  
**Contact the Daily Charge at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail [david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil](mailto:david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil).**  
*The Daily Charge* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Daily Charge* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of the *Daily Charge* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.



## Baghdad in Brief

### **Iraqi, U.S. security forces attacked from mosque**

KALSU, Iraq - Coalition and Iraqi forces received gunfire and rocket-propelled grenade fire from insurgents inside a mosque near Iskandariyah, Iraq March 26.

Company D, 3rd Battalion, 309th Parachute Infantry Regiment and Iraqi security force personnel positively identified that the attack was coming from the Al Wasafa mosque and minaret and requested an AH-64 Apache attack helicopter from the 4th Squadron, 227th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion to engage the insurgents in the mosque.

No significant damage was done to the mosque, but bullet holes can be seen in the mosque walls.

Iraqi forces entered the mosque to pursue the insurgents and the U.S. forces secured the area outside.

A military transition team from Forward Operating Base Iskan assisted in the pursuit of insurgents following the attack.

The ISF and paratroopers respect the sanctity of mosques by taking precautions to minimize damage to property and disruption of legitimate activities when operating around such sites.

In accordance with the Iraqi Prime Minister's directive given in a recent speech, any buildings that are being used for criminal or illegal activities forfeit their protective status under international law.

Injured insurgents were given immediate medical care by Iraqi security forces and taken to area hospitals. One insurgent was killed and two were wounded.

## Mansour security district clearing carry on

By Maj. Rob Parke,  
3-2 Inf. Public Affairs Officer

BAGHDAD - In a sixth day of clearing operations in the Iraqi capital's Al Mansour security district, Iraqi security forces and coalition Soldiers detained a total of eight suspected terrorists and discovered four weapons caches. Five of the eight people detained came as a result from tips provided by local citizens.

On the evening of March 25, a local Iraqi woman provided a tip to Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment and they conducted an early morning raid March 26 that led to the arrest of five suspected terrorists. A second tip provided by an Iraqi citizen led to the discovery of an 82mm mortar tube in an abandoned house. Two other weapons caches found today included two AK-47 assault rifles, one shotgun, two 9mm pistols, two black ski masks, and electronic components used for making improvised explosive

devices.

Iraqi Army Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division searched the Al Shaheed Mosque and found a fourth weapons cache consisting of two rocket propelled grenade boosters, five AK-47 assault rifles with 12 magazines, one hand grenade, four rolls of concertina wire and a box of medical supplies.

Over the last six days of clearing operations Iraqi security forces and coalition Soldiers have detained 63 suspected terrorists, discovered 27 weapons caches and found two prepared car bombs. The operation coined as "Arrowhead Strike 9" included Iraqi security forces from 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division; 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division; 4th Brigade, 10th Iraqi Army Division; and 5th Battalion, 2nd National Police Brigade. U.S Army Soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division were also involved in the operation.



(U.S. Army photo)

Two Iraqi National Police officers use a "hooligan" tool to force open a door while searching for terrorists and weapons caches in Baghdad's Ameriya neighborhood. Police officers from 3rd Company, 4th Battalion, 2nd National Police Brigade took part in the clearing operations which began on March 21 in this section of Baghdad.

# U.S. Army brings synthetic fertilizer to Iraqi farmers

By Spc. Chris McCann  
2-10 Mtn. Public Affairs

MUSTAFAR, Iraq - The village of Mustafar, Iraq teems with children and farmers hailing the trucks of U.S. Soldiers coming in March 25.

The Soldiers, with the 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), brought two and a half truckloads of ammonium phosphate fertilizer from Camp Striker, Iraq, to the farmers a few miles away.

Abdul Nebi Mahdi Hassam Al-Shemeri, the head of the newly-founded farmers' cooperative, and his son, Salam Abdul-Nebi, helped organize the distribution.

"I help, but my father does most of it," Salam said. "We live here and farm vegetables to sell - our family has been here for about 17 years."

Capt. Adam Sawyer, a native of Reading, Penn., and the commander of Troop C, 1-89, helped about 50 farmers

build their own cooperative.

"They're recognized by the Iraqi government now," Sawyer said. "The co-op has tractors and equipment that they share. They expressed interest in getting some fertilizer, and so (Abdul-Nebi) is here to make sure that only the members of the co-op get it."

The chance to get out was fun for the Soldiers as well.

"I feel like I'm actually doing something," said Sgt. Ethan Jones, a native of Boyertown, Penn., and a welder. "I'm not just back in the rear, doing nothing. I'm getting out and seeing more of the scenery. And I think the Iraqis are very appreciative of what we're doing."

"We're tired but happy," said Abdul-Nebi. "We're very happy that you came to serve us like this and bring so many supplies. Before, many people used to say that the Americans were no good, but now, seeing how much you help us - everyone is changing their minds."

Pfc. Victor Calhoun, a native of



**Spc. Travis Bellew, a medic with the 1st Sqd., 89th Cav. Regt., 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div., carries a bag of ammonium phosphate fertilizer with a local man at a distribution in the village of Mustafar, Iraq, March 25.**

Macon, Ga., and a driver with Troop D, said he's been enlightened about Iraqi culture on these missions too.

"The more I do it, the more I enjoy it and understand that I'm actually part of helping them," Calhoun said.

"It's good to see that we bring a variety of things they need. And today I saw the locals working together, instead of just asking for a handout. There were children involved, Iraqi Police - everyone was working together," he said.

One of the Iraqi policemen, Samir Ali Kalaf Kenaani, joked with the local children and pulled security along Abu Ghalan road.

"I'm very happy to serve our people. We hope to serve more and more - the people here are very poor."

Samir joined the police force to help the country, he said.

"Well, I joined for the salary too, but mostly to help my country," Samir said, laughing. "It's dangerous sometimes, but it's dangerous in Iraq to be a civilian too. Mostly we just want to get the area to be safe. It will take time, but we'll get there."



(Photo by Spc. Chris McCann 2-10 Mtn. Public Affairs)

**Iraqi men load bags of ammonium phosphate fertilizer into the backs of their pickup trucks in the village of Mustafar, Iraq, March 25. Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), brought two truckloads of the bags for disbursement.**



# Soldiers celebrate women accomplishments

By Spc. Nathan Hoskins  
1st ACB Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Adversity is a part of life and women know this all too well.

For many years women were treated as lesser individuals - unequal in the eyes of men. It was not until 1916 that the first woman was allowed to serve side by side with men in congress, said Deer Park, N.Y., native Lt. Col. Holly Cook, the 1st Cavalry Division staff judge advocate.

Four years later, women finally received the right to vote when the Nineteenth Amendment was passed, she said.

Despite a long history of adversity, women have made a name for themselves. Forged from these fires are the resilient and strong women who live and work today.

The 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cav. Div., welcomed Cook along with Iraqi native Suzan [full name withheld for security purposes], a lawyer who works with coalition forces, as guest speakers during a Women's History Month celebration hosted by 615th "Cold Steel" Aviation Support Battalion at Camp Taji, Iraq, March 19.

The theme for Women's History Month this year is "Generations of women moving history forward."

"So often, we as both Soldiers and Americans do not have an appreciation for the struggles and sacrifices of those that preceded us. With little or no reward or recognition, women have led progress in our country and military forces since the birth of our nation," remarked Baraboo, Wis., native Lt. Col. Mark Hirschinger, commander of 615th ASB.

He continued on to remind the audience about the many prominent heroines, such as Dr. Mary Walker.

"Dr. Mary Walker was a prisoner of war during the Civil War and the first and only woman to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for her military service," said Hirschinger to the packed theater.

Following Hirschinger, Cook spoke about the importance of diversity in the Army.

The reason we celebrate and honor the many different groups in the Army is not to single out any particular race or gender, said Cook, but to recognize their achievements and contributions, take pride in them and



(Photo by Spc. Nathan Hoskins 1st ACB Public Affairs)

**Spc. Kimberly Taylor, a vocalist for the 1st Cavalry Division Band, moves the audience as she proudly sings "I am a Believer" during the Women's History Month celebration hosted by 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cav. Div. at Camp Taji, March 19.**

learn from them.

Still, she did not want to lessen the fact that everyone in the Army, no matter race or gender, is important.

"... let me state one central truth about military history. No one in the military accomplishes anything because we are women or men, black or white or Hispanic. We make things happen because we are Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. Competence is our watchword," she said.

The highlight of the celebration ceremony was Suzan's speech. She talked about the hardships the Iraqi women face each day.

"Traditions and customs have the essential role of controlling the Iraqi woman's personality ... and have caused the loss of her identity. She was torn between accepting those traditions and customs [or] rejecting them. She had the knowledge and vision to build a productive society but she couldn't escape the burdens imposed by traditions," she told the audience.

These customs and traditions put Suzan's life in danger every time she walks out the

front door of her house to go to work. Not the traditional stereotype, Suzan stands out among her peers in a dress suit - her face uncovered - working a job normally held by a male in her society.

While this way of life has kept Iraqi women out of sight, a new hope is slowly rising - the hope of equality.

Although circumstances may be getting better, there is still a battle raging - pushing through hundreds of years of tradition.

"This change is just beginning and there is still a big difference between women's ambitions and reality, in which customs and values act as a thick wall separating women from opportunities available to men," said Suzan.

This unstable situation in Iraq is being dealt with by people, and more specifically Soldiers, who want a better future for all people regardless of race, nationality or gender.

"As we continue to move forward in the 21st century, the role and contributions of all women will become even more important as we navigate the changes in our military and our society. And, it is the job done by those of you here serving today which will continue to open those doors of opportunity," Hirschinger stated in his remarks.

Women have come a long way in the military and have never sought special treatment, only the right to be treated fairly and equally, he said.

Today, many women are serving next to men who are all fighting for democracy in Iraq - the freedom for men and women alike.

There are over 350,000 women serving in the U.S. military - about 15 percent of active duty personnel. One in every seven troops serving in Iraq is a woman, said Hirschinger.

While there is progress being made to bring freedom to Iraq, the mission is not over and there should not be any rest till it is completed, said Suzan.

"Empower women, and let them enrich society with their love, warmth, and knowledge to build a new Iraq. To the Iraqi women, working side-by-side with men developing this country, I say: we have accomplished much, but we cannot, we must not, we shall not stop now," she declared.